

THE MICHIGAN LIBRARIAN

October 1951

Published by the

MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 17

NUMBER 3

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THE MICHIGAN LIBRARIAN

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER
1951

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VOLUME 17
NUMBER 3

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The Michigan Librarian is published four times a year by the Michigan Library Association for its membership. Printed by the Sturgis Printing Company, Inc., Sturgis, Michigan.

Subscription price to non-members, one dollar a year, payable in advance. Single copies, 35 cents each. Subscription for less than a year and numbers from back files will be charged at the single copy rate. Subscriptions and circulation inquiries should be addressed to the Business Office.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE



Again Michigan is a FIRST! The Committee on Relations with Publishers, appointed early this year, laid plans for a Combined Book Exhibit to be held at the M.L.A. Conference, as a demonstration of what could be done on the state level. In May the group met with Mr. Theodore Waller, of the Committee on Reading Development of the American Book Publishers Council to discuss areas of cooperation between libraries and publishers. The Book Workshops at A.L.A. in July confirmed our belief that more book discussions and more opportunity to examine books would be appreciated by librarians.

The M.L.A. has been given the opportunity to select the books to be displayed in the Combined Book Exhibit, which will include 1000 titles. The committee to select the 600 adult titles was headed by Charlotte Shaw, Librarian of the Edison Branch Library in Detroit. The 400 children's books were chosen under the direction of Miriam Wessel, Head of the Main Library Children's Room in Detroit.

We plan to highlight the book exhibit by providing time on the program for examination and discussion of the books. The book discussions will be timed so that there is as little conflict as possible for people interested in several types of books. For example one discussion of children's books will be held Friday afternoon at 3:30 P. M. so that children's and school librarians will have a good opportunity to attend.

The Conference Committees are hard at work completing plans to make this sixtieth annual meeting a significant one for all of us. By the time you read this, the preliminary program will have reached you.

Before you come to Detroit, please read the printed reports of the various committees. The Committees have worked hard; many have presented thoughtful recommendations for your consideration. The M.L.A. is your association. Your full participation in discussions at the business sessions is needed if our association is to continue to grow.

The M.L.A. is a good, hard working, forward looking association. Your next president, Robert Orr will, I know, continue to enjoy the full cooperation of each member — a cooperation which has made my term as President such a rewarding year.

Marian C. Young,
President

LATE FLASH!

Pre-Conference Workshop on Public Relations

Thursday, November 1, 2:00 p.m.

Statler Hotel, Detroit

William Chait, Chairman of the Public Relations Committee of MLA, urges your participation in a Pre-Conference Workshop on Public Relations to be conducted by Mr. Theodore Waller of the Committee on Reading Development of the American Book Publishers Council, assisted by Mrs. Margie Malmberg, formerly in the Washington Office of ALA, and our own Miss Ruth Warncke of the Kent County Library. All MLA committee members are especially invited to attend the workshop and it is a must for all committee chairmen.

Deadline for material for the December *Michigan Librarian*: November 15th.

DETROIT CONFERENCE

HOTEL STATLER

Thursday, November 1, 1951

- 2:00 County Librarians Section
- 2:30 Public Relations Workshop
- 6:00 Executive Boards Dinner
- 8:00 First General Session
Marian C. Young, President, Presiding
Welcome-Honorable Albert E. Cobo, Mayor of Detroit
Speaker: Anthony West
"Is the Novel a Social Force?"
- 10:30 Informal Reception

Friday, November 2, 1951

- 8:30 Section Breakfasts
Hospital Libraries
Adult Education
- 10:00 Second General Session
Marian C. Young Presiding
Business Meeting
- 12:15 Section Luncheons
Michigan Regional Group of Catalogers
County Librarians
Trustees
College Librarians
- 1:30 & 3:30 Tours of Public and School Libraries
- 2:00 Book Discussion Meeting and Clinic
- 2:30 Reference Section
- 3:30 Book Discussion Meeting
- 4:00 Tea for Michigan Junior Librarians
- 7:00 Third General Session - Conference Banquet
Robert M. Orr, President-Elect, Presiding
Introduction of Section Chairmen and Honored Guests
Greetings from ALA and Michigan State Library
Loleta D. Fyan, President of ALA and Librarian Michigan State Library
Speaker: Leland Stowe
"Our Long Term Job."

Saturday, November 3, 1951

- 8:30 Section Breakfast
School and Children's Librarians Section
- 9:00 Book Discussion Meeting
- 10:30 Fourth General Session
Robert M. Orr, President-Elect, Presiding
Business Meeting
- 1:00 Tours of Public Libraries



Anthony West



Leland Stowe

MICHIGAN NEEDS A PUBLIC LIBRARY SURVEY

by

Raymond E. Mahoney

The Planning Committee of MLA is now giving careful consideration to a survey of public library service in Michigan. If a survey is a good thing on a national basis (Public Library Inquiry) then it is a good thing on a state basis. If states as small as Connecticut and as poor as Mississippi can make surveys then the time has arrived for Michigan to stir itself in that direction. The first step in library progress often begins with a survey. It stimulates interest and outlines programs so a unity of thought can be expedited within the profession. Without it, there is no central core around which the profession can rally. With it comes a clearer pattern and a greater impetus for action.

This scientific tool not only centralizes pertinent factual data within one binding (a considerable contribution) but often crystalizes a plan of action in the minds of the profession. An interesting example will illustrate the point. Last year Mr. Ulveling (Detroit Public Library) made a survey of the Tulsa Public Library. As a result, public attention was directed to an unsatisfactory service; the profession had a balanced program in hand at the strategic moment, when public interest was aroused, and the following action was taken:

1. A new branch has been opened and bids received on a second branch.
2. Trustees requested \$2,760,000 bond issue covering new main building and two additional branches.
3. Salaries for several key personnel have been substantially increased.
4. The whole salary scale is being revised upward.
5. Chamber of Commerce has listed the library as No. 2 item on its work program for 1951.
6. The AAUW obtained 600 signatures on a resolution requesting Mayor and Board of City Commissioners to study report and place its recommendations into operation.

Librarian James E. Gourley states: "I believe the Ulveling survey marks one of the biggest milestones in our history."¹

1. Tulsa Public Library, *Library Journal*: June 1, 1951, Vol. 76, No. 11; p. 938.

Michigan's library history has been extensive enough to develop long-range trends. Unfortunately trends don't run along the surface, bumping into us, but exist just as surely as underground rivers. Like the geologists, it is up to us to locate them in the library field, measure their importance and chart their course. Once we understand these trends we can plan with a greater degree of accuracy. We can plead our case before the public and within the legislative halls with a confidence that breeds conviction. The more information we can gather and the better we can marshal our facts the broader will be our base and the more assured our ultimate success. This does not mean the survey technique is an end in itself, but few will deny it is a firm foot placed on the road to success.

The business world has found few instruments as reliable for assembling facts, concentrating attention and pinpointing trends. Frequently the first step in the solution of a problem is measured from the authorization of a competent survey group. The procedure appears so simple one may be inclined to ask: "Why do we need a survey of Michigan libraries?" There are several reasons:

1. State aid for libraries is on a pre-World War II level. It is one of the few state expenses running at the 1939 level. Meanwhile we have experienced a highly inflationary period, the dislocation of a World War and the beginning of an atomic era. During the same period education expenses have more than tripled. Since 1940 state expenditures have expanded from \$183 million to \$556 million (in 1950). There must be some reason why our public libraries are not sharing in this greatly increased rate of expenditure.
2. County library expansion has reached a standstill. Approximately 1,000,000 residents have no library service in one of the nation's richest states. We must beware of the dangers of stalemate, must go forward during this period of unprecedented prosperity or surely we will find ourselves slipping backward during a period of falling revenues.
3. We have never had a state survey similar to those prepared and published in a number of states.

4. A competent survey will give us a floor on which to stand. We can refer to it, quote it and give copies to our friends in the legislature. They are in real need of a basic document to lean on when they must stand before a hostile group of colleagues and argue favorable consideration of a library bill. They are handicapped because they don't have a library background. During the legislative session they seldom have time for extended conferences with librarians because they operate under considerable pressure—studying and digesting information on a host of bills concerning diverse subjects. We can strengthen their hand and promote our cause by giving them a carefully prepared summary of our objectives and the reasons for them, and in addition, approximately how much they will cost and how the cost should be shared. We must be able to convince them of the genuineness of our needs and the urgency of our objectives.

5. If our membership was concentrated within a small area a survey would be a welcome guide. It becomes essential when a membership is scattered like seeds in the wind, in independent agencies throughout the state. Distance slows down action and makes it increasingly difficult to obtain a panoramic view, fitting the separate parts into a composite whole. Many of us meet for only a few days a year—at annual meetings—some not for several years. We need the careful, deliberate and long-range planning upon which human progress so often depends.

Alfred P. Sloan (former General Motors Chairman) observed that W. C. Durant frequently did not take the time to dig out the facts and measure them with the care of an engineer. Some of his judgments were astonishingly accurate, but he missed the boat so often his losses outweighed his triumphs. "Many costly errors would have been avoided had his practice been to base decisions on a comprehensive analysis of facts and circumstances," wrote Mr. Sloan.² Good plans are invariably based on a careful weighing of accurate facts. "It is well recognized that no firm that

has had experience with competent research is ever willing to operate without it."³

6. We need to know how much an adequate library service would cost and how much the state (including local taxing authorities) can afford to pay. Much of this information is available but apparently we have not put a dollar sign on it and drawn up a balance sheet.
7. The strains and dislocations of the war and postwar periods have contributed to a kaleidoscopic era characterized by swift movements and sudden changes. We need centralized in one place a current statement on how our Michigan libraries compare with libraries in neighboring states—with the national average—and with ALA standards. New census figures will be published soon. This is an opportune time to consider the question.
8. Our state encompasses large industrial, agricultural, and forest areas. The rapid mechanization of farm operations has resulted in a thinning out of rural sections and a greater concentration in urban areas. Meanwhile people of our large cities are constantly moving to new suburban homes. So the ebb and flow of human tide goes on. It has a direct bearing on the number, location, and size of libraries. Social scientists have discovered the tide has a pattern and we should relate that pattern to our library plans over a wide area. Library service cannot be considered apart from the society which it serves.
9. A good survey takes time, hard work, and some money. It often involves geographic, historical, economic and social factors. Most of us are so busy with our present work that we cannot afford to undertake a state-wide survey. A survey is no better than the group making the study. Many people can produce facts but few have the faculty for analyzing and interpreting them. We should make every effort to staff the survey group with the best available personnel—preferably those with extended library service and some experience in making surveys.
10. There is never enough state money to go around (to satisfy every agency). Nor do the units with the greatest need necessarily receive the largest appropriations.

2. Alfred P. Sloan, *Adventures of a White Collar Man*, Doubleday & Company, Inc., New York: c. 1941. p. 104.

3. Harry Simmons, ed., *Sales Executives Handbook*, Prentice-Hall, Inc., New York: 1950. p. 160.

They go to the groups preparing their cases with the greatest care and presenting them with the greatest degree of conviction. Units receiving substantially larger appropriations during successive years have examined their facts meticulously and presented their arguments with the skill and dispatch of a District Attorney. If we are to obtain more money we must narrow the gap, we must meet the competition.

The composition of our MLA Legislative Committee changes from year to year, with appointments made for a two-year term. Pressure from their regular positions permits members to devote a relatively few days to a few weeks to this important work. Some members are reappointed. New members often spend a good part of their first year becoming acquainted with the state library picture and legislative procedures. Therefore, the presence of a good basic document to start with is of even greater importance to us than to our well-organized competitors. A competent survey is as important to us as a compass to a ship. The function of library research is to provide the necessary facts and to analyze and interpret their significance. In an ever increasing degree, library policies are being formulated and library decisions are being made on the firm foundation of careful research. Library progress in Michigan will be expedited by a competent survey, conducted by experts in the field.

NEW LIBRARY BOARD MEMBER

Mr. Arthur Yabroff, Business Director, Detroit Public Library, has been appointed to the State Board for Libraries to succeed Miss Helen Warner. His term will expire June 24, 1956.

A native of Wisconsin, Mr. Yabroff received his B.A. in accounting from the University of Wisconsin in 1932 and B. of L.S. from Western Reserve University in 1937. From 1932 to 1936 he was an auditor and accountant in Cleveland, Ohio, and from 1937 to date, except for one year as mathematician for Jam Handy Organization and about three in the U.S. Navy, he has been with the Detroit Public Library. For the past year he has been Chairman of the Legislative Committee of the Michigan Library Association.

TELETYPE SERVICE

The beginning of the first state-wide network of libraries in the country is now in operation in Michigan. Connected by teletype machines which operate on the same principle as the telephone are Michigan State Library, Lansing and its two extension offices at Cadillac and Marquette, the University of Michigan Library, Ann Arbor, the Ryerson Public Library at Grand Rapids and the Detroit Public Library.

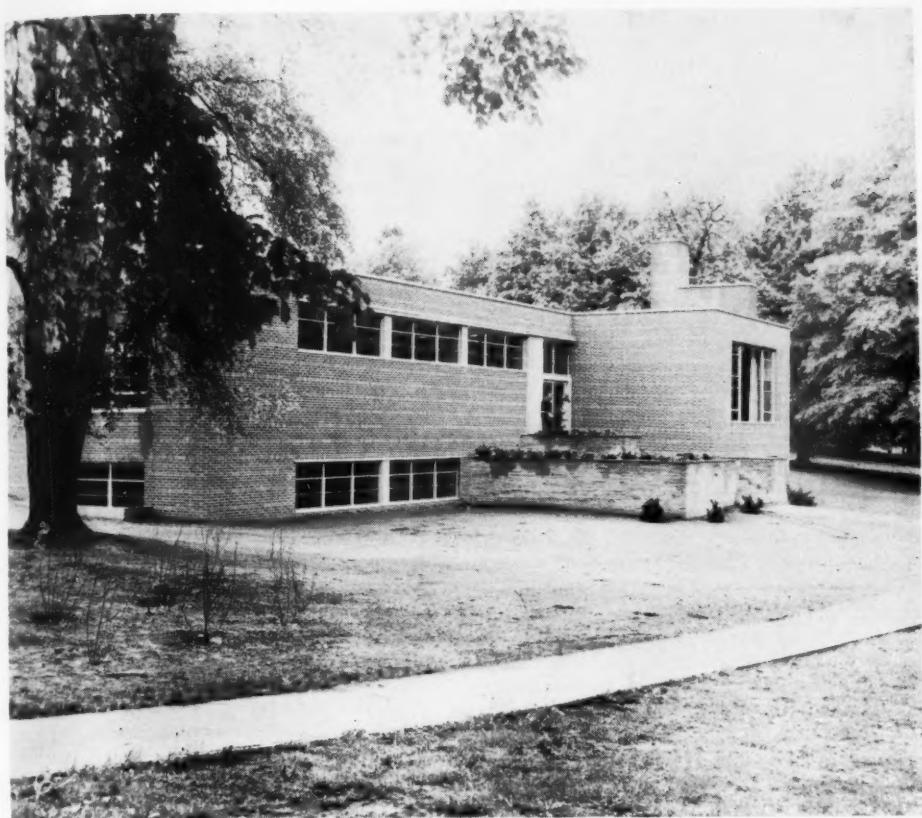
The new service actually is the result of the big fire that damaged much of the State Office Building in Lansing, this February, leaving the Michigan State Library handicapped in serving the public needs with any degree of adequacy. Although Michigan State Library is resuming service, conditions still are difficult. State Library patrons are asked to send their requests to Lansing. As many as possible will be filled by the State Library and others will be sent over the teletype machine from Lansing to Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids, and Detroit for the libraries there to fill.

At present, only unusual and emergency requests are being sent. However, the cooperating libraries are working on a plan to extend the teletype or TWX service, as it is commonly known, to their many patrons. When the plan is worked out, it will be possible for a patron to get a short reply while he waits, or to have the material requested in his hands the next day.

The cost of operating the TWX machines is \$10.00 a month for each participating library. The ten dollars is used up in messages sent. What the cost will be to patrons using the machine in the future has not been determined yet.

Mrs. Loleta D. Fyan, State Librarian, speaking for the cooperating libraries in this first attempt at state-wide network of libraries, said that future plans call for the participation of most of the libraries in Michigan. At present the government is requisitioning all available teletype machines.

Teletype machines are located at the University of Michigan Library, Ann Arbor, main branch of the Detroit Public Library, and Ryerson Public Library, Grand Rapids. Machines at Cadillac and Marquette are in the extension offices of the Michigan State Library. In Lansing the TWX machine is at the State Library Information Center located on the ground floor of the Capitol.



MOVING THE HILLSDALE COLLEGE LIBRARY

by

H. Glen Fitch

Planning for moving into the new Carr Memorial Library at Hillside College actually began toward the end of the first semester when a very gentle hint was given the College Federation (student government body at Hillside) that it might be feasible for the whole student body to have a part in the moving. Nothing further was said until sometime in March when one of the co-chairmen of the Federation's social committee approached the Librarian with the suggestion that it might be possible to have the student body, faculty, and administration cooperate in moving into the new library building. This suggestion from the Federation was what we had been hoping for. The two co-chairmen were appointed by the Federation to work with the Librarian in formulating plans. One of the two had worked

in the Library as a student assistant, so her acquaintance with the library organization was a great help.

At first we had planned to have the Buildings and Grounds Department of the College build carriers with a capacity of approximately 100 books, which could be carried by two boys. As it turned out, this plan had to be abandoned because of the pressure of work on Buildings and Grounds in getting the campus and buildings ready for Commencement on June 2nd. We had reports of at least two colleges where the student body had cooperated in moving into a new library and had carried books by the armful. After it became apparent that we would not be able to get the carriers in time, we decided to adopt the latter method.

In the meantime the Librarian had meas-

ured the book collection. At first the classes were placed in order from top to bottom but classes were divided between floors, a condition which we wanted to avoid if possible. We finally decided to put the most used classes on Tier 2 on the level with the Circulation Desk, these classes being 300, 400, 800, and fiction, which is not classified. The 400 class is small in numbers and circulation but it was thought advisable to put it next to 800. The 500, 600, 700, and 900 classes were put on Tier 3. The 000's, 100's, 200's and periodicals were placed on Tier 1. Markers were placed in the new stacks where each class was to begin. A label for each periodical title was placed on the shelves it would occupy.

When it became apparent that the contractor's promise of completion of the building by the middle of May was to be met, moving day was set for Wednesday, May 23, 1951. An official "skip day" was proclaimed by President Turner for that date. No classes were to be held and faculty and students were to participate in the moving.

On the afternoon of May 22 a final meeting was held with the presidents of all houses and dormitories present. At this meeting it was decided that each organization would have half its membership report at 8 A.M. the following morning and the other half report at 1 P.M. in the afternoon.

The turnout at 8 A.M. was rather discouraging, but by 8:15 a sufficient number of students and faculty had turned out to enable operations to begin. The group was divided into three crews: one to move books to Tier 3, using the rear entrance to the new building; one to move books to Tier 2, using the main entrance; and one to move the periodical collection to Tier 1, using the basement entrance. Each group was warned of the importance of each student keeping his proper place in line while carrying a load of books.

A student assistant was placed in charge of each crew removing the books from the old building and a student assistant had responsibility for correct placing of books by the movers on each of the three floors of the new building. President Turner had the honor of removing the first armload of books from the old building and carrying it to the new. We soon had two lines of students carrying books from the old to the new building. The third crew moving the periodicals was provided with two trucks and a trailer because of the size and weight of a great number of the bound periodicals. Periodicals were laid face down

by rows on the bed of each truck and the trailer. This crew had a line of students from the shelves to the truck at the old building and another line from the truck to the shelves in the new building. Periodicals were passed in bucket brigade fashion along these lines.

In assigning the late-comers to the first two crews, we tried to keep these crews as near the same size as possible. By 10:30 we had so much help that a waiting line was developed at the new building. A telephone call to the old building stopped operations at that end until the congestion had been relieved.

At noon, when a halt was made for lunch, all but part of the 900's and a third of the periodicals had been moved.

At one o'clock operations were resumed with new crews but with the same supervisors. The last load of periodicals left the old building at 3:15 P.M. and was in its new location by 4 P.M.

In our planning we had estimated that one person would carry eight to twelve books per trip and that we would be lucky to be finished in eight hours. As it worked out, the minimum number of books carried was twelve and the maximum as high as twenty; the time was about seven hours.

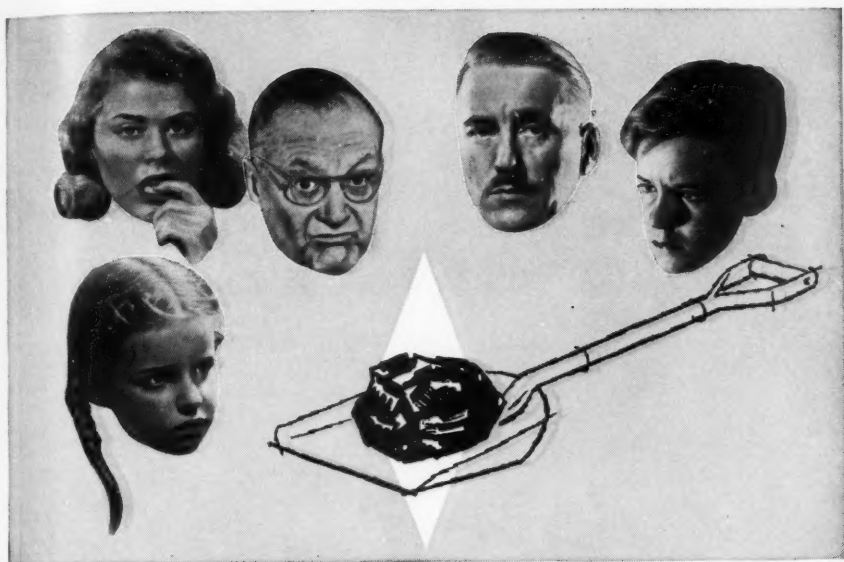
At Hillsdale we are proud of the fact that by the cooperative efforts of faculty, students, and administration (about 500 in all) we were able to move a book collection of 27,000 volumes and a periodical collection of 7,000 volumes in the length of time we did.

To conclude this May 23 skip-day, an all-college picnic was served by the College and the Federation.

No outstanding errors were made in moving. We found a few places where a mover got ahead of, or back of, his right place in line so that his load of books was out of order on the shelf. Some of the periodical sets were put on the shelf in reverse order by volume number but the sets themselves were in their proper location.

NATIONAL LIBRARY DAY

October 4, 1951, was designated as NATIONAL LIBRARY DAY, the final event in preparation for starting the nation-wide study of The Heritage of the U.S.A. in Times of Crisis, under library leadership. The A.L.A. has accepted a grant of \$150,000 from the Fund for Adult Education of the Ford Foundation to assist public libraries in conducting the Heritage program which will begin soon after NATIONAL LIBRARY DAY.



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WORLD BOOK Encyclopedia

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Photo by Elaine Bychinsky
Lansing Public Library

Reading left to right: Mrs. Dirk Gringhuis, Mr. Dirk Gringhuis, Mrs. Beulah Bock, Miss Louise Singley, Mr. Leon Burgoyne.

SPRING INSTITUTE ON CHILDREN'S READING

Reprinted from the *Lansing State Journal*

About 200 school and children's librarians, members of the Michigan Library Association, gathered at the Hotel Porter in Lansing, May 11-12, for a two day spring institute on children's reading.

During the institute the librarians, representing all sections of the lower peninsula, concentrated their aims on two main points: discussion of the trends of children's literature and the types children want to read; and a review of current children's literature and its authors.

Friday morning's program entailed mainly preliminary conference business, with a social coffee hour, registration, and a film on Japanese publishing taking up most of the time.

Following a luncheon Friday noon, the librarians settled down to their first important discussion item, the library aspects as contained in the mid-century White House report, reviewed through a panel discussion led by Miss Marian Young of the Detroit Public

Library. Mrs. G. Mennen Williams spoke from the standpoint of citizen participation.

Later Friday afternoon, the delegates gathered at a tea at the Lansing Public Library to meet the authors attending the institute, and to hear an informal discussion by Professor K. C. Randall, of the Michigan State College English Department, author of the recently published children's book, *Wild Hunter*. The volume has been selected as a Literary Guild publication.

Friday evening the librarians heard two more children's authors, Dirk Gringhuis and Leon Burgoyne, in post-banquet addresses. Mr. Gringhuis, author and artist who wrote and illustrated *Tulip Time*, is from Holland, and Mr. Burgoyne, author of *State Champs*, is former athletic director of St. Joseph High School where he coached many-time state championship teams.

Rebecca Caudill, Urbana, Illinois, author of *Up and Down the River*, among other young people's books, spoke at the Saturday morning session on "Backgrounds for Backwoods Stories."

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Child and youth study authorities were represented by Dr. Gunnar Dybwad, supervisor of the children's division of the Michigan Department of Social Welfare and Mrs. Lyle Price, Public Relations chairman of the Michigan Child Study Club Association among other speakers.

Mrs. Beulah Isles Bock, in charge of the young people's division of the Lansing Library and chairman of the Children's Section of the Michigan Library Association, presided at the luncheon Friday.

The host committee for the two days consisted of Mrs. Alma Huggins, Miss Alta Parks, Miss Virginia Summers and Jackson Towne.

In the *Publishers' Weekly*, June 30, 1951, p. 2647, there is a description of the cooperation of the Campus Book Store in East Lansing in the display of books by the authors who spoke at the Institute.

INSTITUTE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Institute Committee appointed in March, 1951, met early in that month to consider the possibility of planning a program for the immediate future. The Committee felt that the only way to find out whether there was any real interest and need for such a program was to present it. Plans were therefore made at that initial meeting for the speakers who were to be invited, the length of the Institute decided upon, and the dates, June 11 and 12, selected. The University had indicated that we would be welcome to join forces with Alumni University and that influenced the selection of the dates.

Since the Institute was a new venture the Committee had full scope in selecting the topics to be discussed. We decided to concentrate on practical library problems, relying upon the Alumni University to give the inspirational touch. We selected two of the lectures on Contemporary Writers of Alumni University as part of our program: Professor Arno Bader discussing Sinclair Lewis and Professor Joe L. Davis, William Faulkner. Miss Ruth Rutzen of the Detroit Public Library was invited to discuss an experimental program of book arrangement which Detroit is currently using in some of its branches. Mr. Walter Kaiser, Wayne County Library, was asked to talk about the simplified charging system used in the county wide system. Miss Ruth Warneke, Kent County Library, was assisted by Mr. Edwin Burrows of the University of

Michigan radio station, WUOM, and a group of Library Science students in presenting a radio book review such as local librarians might plan. Dr. Warner G. Rice, Director of the University of Michigan Libraries, used General Library equipment to illustrate his comments on the use of microcards and microfilms in libraries. In most cases there was time for a question period and lively discussion followed each presentation.

Ninety librarians, including ten who registered for the full Alumni Week, attended the meetings which were held in the Rackham Building in Ann Arbor. We are indebted to Mr. Everett Soop, Director of the Extension Service of the University, for his invitation to participate in Alumni University and to Mr. Marland Small, also of the Extension Service, for his help in making arrangements for the meeting rooms and assisting with other details. Monday evening we were delightfully entertained at the Clements Library. The University graciously opened its rooms to our group free of charge.

Whether an attendance of ninety out of a total membership of some 1400 indicates a real need for an institute program remains a question although the Committee was encouraged by the active participation of visitors in all the meetings. A few suggestions for problems to be discussed at any future Institutes have been received. Most comments have indicated that cooperation with Alumni University gave variety to the program.

The Committee makes the following suggestions:

1. If the Executive Committee wishes to continue the Institute programs, that the Institute Committee be provided with funds for expenses. (An estimate of the amount needed can be made by referring to the expenses as outlined in the financial statement for the first Institute.) A systematic publicity program concerning the Institute by the Executive Committee would be helpful.
2. If the Institute Program is continued, that it be held biennially.
3. If the Executive Committee decides that the Institute Program should be discontinued, that the Program Committee of the MLA annual meeting should consider the possibility of discussing professional library matters at general meetings.

Clover Flanders, Chairman

A BOOK FOR A CHILD

by
Dirk Gringhuis*

There is nothing, to my mind, more worthwhile than serving children. And perhaps there is nothing more difficult to do really well. Simplicity is seldom simple to achieve. But when we are given the opportunity to serve, we find our rewards are among the world's richest. For what can compare with watching the sudden rapture on a child's face, or the quick wonder that lights his eyes when he comes across a new section of his own growing world held safe for him between the colorful covers of a book.

This evening I have been given an opportunity to say something which to my knowledge has been left too long unsaid. It is to say a heartfelt thank you to you who daily guard and give freely the knowledge and the wonder that is held in the books in our libraries.

Without that knowledge and wonder we who write words or draw pictures would be workers without tools.

I can remember so well the first time I was ever in a library. I was five years old, just starting kindergarten. I had a box of crayons, paper, and an overpowering urge to draw a picture of the American flag. But one important feature was missing. I lacked a clear idea of just what an American flag looked like.

So I was sent down into the basement of the school to the library and in a moment a full color picture of a flag lay at my elbow. With nose almost touching the paper, and a red crayon clutched tight in my hand I began to draw under the kindly eye of the librarian.

I learned two things that day. One, that the stripes on the flag went across instead of up and down, and the other that when I wanted to find out the truth about something here was the place to come.

I think that right then and there a book lover and a book illustrator was born.

I wish that I could remember the name of that librarian, but I can't. We so seldom remember the giver when we have been given something, and yet, she, calmly and competently doing her job, gave me the direction for my whole life.

Ever after that, librarians were to me "genie," who at a spoken wish would reach out their hands and hand you the secrets of the universe done up neatly between linen covers.

* Talk given on May 11th at the Spring Reading Institute.

And after stamping something inside with a magic pencil that had a stamp where the eraser should be, the book was yours to take home! Is it any wonder that librarians are my favorite people?

I have written a book, my second. There is nothing amazing about that. But, it has been published! That is amazing to me. Because that book called *Tulip Time*, will be on library shelves, next to some of the great children's books of our times. Books like the *Wind in the Willows*, *Pinnocchio*, or the wonderful stories of A. A. Milne with Winnie the Pooh. And I feel very grateful that my book, as simple as it is, should be on those shelves at all. But it will be, thanks to William McGovern and the others on the staff of Albert Whitman Company, my publishers.

I hope that those shelves will soon hold more books on Michigan and the midwest. I hope that some of them will be mine. I am proud of our state; we have a thrilling heritage here.

I am also proud to be here this evening among you. And now that I have said what I came to say, I am going to ask you to talk to me. I have here the original paintings and the progressive proofs on the pictures. I will be glad to show them to you or just answer questions. I hope that you will have some questions to ask. But before I forget, there is one thought I would like to leave with you.

We are all, I am sure, aware of the real responsibility we have toward our young people. But let's not forget, in thinking of that responsibility, the joy and the reward that can be ours for serving them.

For if we will just remember the light that comes into their eyes and let it come into ours, we can all have youth everlasting.

COMBINED BOOK EXHIBIT

A group of librarians serving as sub-committees of the M.L.A. Committee on Relations with Publishers has been at work selecting the titles for the combined book exhibit to be held at the M.L.A. convention in Detroit, November 1-3. The great majority will be 1951 imprints but it was felt that a few outstanding titles from the two previous years should be included in case some librarians had not seen them. Every effort is being made to examine the books and to evaluate them from the standpoint of real use in a public library.

Rather than list the books by Dewey number as has been done at A.L.A. exhibits a Reader Interest arrangement is being planned. The adult books will be displayed and listed in the printed catalog being prepared under eleven groups. Some of the larger categories will be subdivided. Headings selected by the committee for the adult books are: BACKGROUND READING, CURRENT AFFAIRS, PEOPLE AND PLACES, PERSONAL LIVING, FAMILIES, FARM AND HOME, YOUR LEISURE TIME, TECHNOLOGY, BUSINESS, SCIENCE AND NATURE LORE, MICHIGAN.

The juvenile books will similarly be grouped under the following major headings indicating the reading interests of children: FAIRY TALES, MYTHS, LEGENDS; YOU AND OTHERS; FAMOUS PEOPLE; LANDS AND PEOPLES; SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY; OUT OF DOORS; ART, POETRY, MUSIC; THINGS TO DO; STORIES; PICTURE BOOKS; HOLIDAYS.

The committee hopes that this exhibit will set a worthwhile precedent for such displays in the future and also be genuinely helpful to the librarians of Michigan.

KPL AND AAUW COOPERATE

A summarized report follows on an experimental group of A.A.U.W. women studying children's literature this year in cooperation with Louise Singley, Children's Librarian of the Kalamazoo Public Library. Incidentally, it has been a most surprisingly successful demonstration. All the members worked amazingly to make their contributions interesting and helpful.

There were twelve monthly sessions starting in September at a general organization and planning meeting. The other twelve meetings were devoted entirely to discussions of books by the mothers, with the exception of three sessions. At one of these Miss Singley, the consultant, gave the talks on new books at Book Week time, and another talk later on illustrators. The final meeting was a talk on Regional Literature given by Miss Mate Gray Hunt, Assistant Director of Western Michigan College Department of Library Science. Outside of these, the eight remaining evenings were given over entirely to book discussions by the members themselves. In all, about one hundred different titles were discussed, exclusive of those reviewed by Miss Hunt and Miss Singley.

The enrollment was seventeen, and usually fourteen to sixteen came regularly, until inroads of the "flu" kept them away. As a result

the average attendance for the twelve meetings was thirteen which is very good.

The meetings were held chiefly in individual homes with the exception of the talks given by Miss Hunt and Miss Singley. At these, since very many books had to be used, it was decided to meet in the Van Deusen Room, Central Library, as a more convenient arrangement.

Several mothers voluntarily expressed how much this experiment had helped them with their own children's reading. Some said it was the most interesting study group they had ever had in A.A.U.W. or elsewhere. Already there are other A.A.U.W. members planning to join a similar group next year.

However, the present aim is to spread this activity as much as possible through the Mother's Study Clubs throughout the city. For this venture six of these A.A.U.W. mothers volunteered to help with these which is another delightful and amazing indication of their enthusiasm. Miss Singley was asked to speak about this before the group of the officers of the Parent-Education Council, also short announcements were sent to the Mother's Round-Up dinner on May 23rd from which much response is expected.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Editor's Note: Several mistakes occurred in the printing of the following information in the June issue of the *ML*, so it is reprinted at the request of the Constitution Committee.

The Committee on Constitution and By-Laws of the Michigan Library Association submits the following proposed amendments for consideration at the annual meeting, November 1951.

Note: The Constitution and By-Laws are printed in the Michigan Librarian, June 1947, Vol. 13, No. 2, page 13. They also may be obtained from Mrs. Margaret Wylie, 341 Southlawn, East Lansing, Michigan.

(Matter in *italics* is new; matter represented by one dash (—) for each word is old provision to be omitted. Brief explanation of change follows each section when amendment is not obvious.)

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS AND MANAGEMENT

Sec. 1. *Officers.* The officers of the Association shall be a President, a First Vice-President who shall be the president-elect, a Second Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, who shall perform the duties pertaining to their respective offices and such other duties as may be approved by the Executive Board.

(c) *All others* \$1.00
(New bracket of \$5,001 and over" added; dues of trustees changed to conform to amount now being paid; subsection (c) added to permit memberships for purpose of obtaining *The Michigan Librarian* only, and to include all others not included in subsections (a) and (b).

ARTICLE IV—NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Sec. 2. *Nominations.* The Nominating Committee shall nominate — — — two or more candidates for each *elective office to be filled at the next election.* — — — —

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The Nominating Committee shall report nominations to the Secretary not less than six months prior to the annual — meeting. Nominations shall be published by the Secretary in the *June issue of the official — organ* of the Association. — — — — —

(Language in paragraph one simplified by eliminating enumeration of offices to be filled.)

ARTICLE VIII—PUBLICATIONS

Sec. 2. *Official Organ.* *The Michigan Librarian* shall be the official organ of the Association and shall be sent to all members of the Association in good standing. There shall be an Editor appointed by the President upon the advice of the Publications Committee and with the approval of the Executive Board. A Business Manager shall be appointed by the President upon the advice of the Editor and with the approval of the Executive Board. The term of office of the Editor and the Business Manager shall be two calendar years, beginning with the uneven years. *The Editor and the Business Manager shall be invited to attend meetings of the Executive Board.*

MIDWEST INTER-LIBRARY CENTER

The first load of books for housing in the Midwest Inter-Library Center arrived at the Center's new building in Chicago on June 19, when the Center's truck pulled up to the loading dock with seven tons of Nuremberg war-crime trials documents being deposited in the Center by Northwestern University, one of the Center's charter members.

The Nuremberg documents, and other material being deposited in the Center by its fifteen participating university libraries, will be made available for cooperative use by the

clientele of member institutions. It is anticipated that 1,000 tons of books, periodicals, newspapers, and other research materials will be transferred from member institutions.

QUOTE

As I look back on my membership in the ALA—begun in 1896—I am conscious of how much I have gained from that single aspect of my life. Long years of membership in an organization are nothing. Work for it is something beyond merely belonging. The people whom I met in these years, the committee work I was privileged to do, the scores of librarians whom I have known intimately through my membership—all are part of the picture. I am proud to have belonged to a professional body for more than fifty years, but prouder still to have known well men and women of kindred problems and abilities. In short, I like the American Library Association and am proud to belong to it.

From "Fragments of Autobiography," by William Warner Bishop. *Library Quarterly*: January, 1951, p. 41

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CENSORING CENSORSHIP

By Martha Boaz*

Determining what is good or bad, what is propaganda or non-propaganda, what is moral, immoral, or obscene are the prerogatives of the Omniscient. Yet, at intervals, censors attempt to violate the right of free speech and free press guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution. It is important that librarians and publishers safeguard this right and it is essential that we recognize the infallibility of our own judgment. My personal opinion in the case of a book like *Forever Amber* is that we would have suffered no serious loss if deprived of the opportunity to read it. But more is involved than one book. More is usually involved than political belief, or one moralistic reaction. Censorship may mean the banning, one day, of a mediocre book—on another day it may mean the stifling of genius and genius is not so common that it can be so lightly treated.

Examples of attempts at censorship: The recent frenzied battle of books in the wealthy community of Scarsdale, New York was a full-dress attempt of a small group of citizens to remove from the high school library and selected reading shelves a variety of books—books which were declared to be subversive, because they were written by persons alleged to have communist leanings. Attempts were made to investigate the loyalty of Scarsdale teachers and town meetings were called frequently and "feelingly". A conclusion of their findings might be summarized in the sentence, "Truth is to be found through open doors." The Scarsdale affair will probably be repeated in other American communities.

In the court case of Samuel Roth vs. Albert Goldman, Postmaster in New York, the morality of *Waggish Tales from the Czechs* was questioned. Judge Jerome Frank who handled the case objected to the Postmaster General's suppression of the book.

The case of the California university professor who was dismissed from his job because of alleged communistic sentiments is another case of the curtailment of freedom of speech. These and many other similar cases may jolt us into hotly opposing views, but we believe the justice of Voltaire's statement when he said, "I disapprove of what you say, but I de-

fend to the death your right to say it." We do not belittle the dangers of communism, nor the evils of obscenity but we believe that we should meet these dangers in the American way. Our country was founded on democratic principles which stress the importance of freedom of speech and freedom of the press—based on the theory that we must develop our intellectual as well as our material lives and that such a tradition is not afraid to allow independent thought.

In reality a speaker or writer can say very little without implying some attitude or point of view. Advocates of radical propaganda say that all literature is partly propagandistic "because the literature that does not at least implicitly advocate communism is really a part of the system of apologetics for the *status quo*." Hence there is no distinctive boundary line between propaganda and nonpropaganda. Radical leaders come and go and their doctrines change with the changing moons. Karl Marx, if he were alive, would probably be very surprised at some of the principles advocated by his followers. The whole problem boils down to the fact that we like the people who believe the same way we do, but we think other people are wrong who have opposing beliefs. But we basically believe that no speaker or writer should be condemned for what he puts into his works nor for what he leaves out. If he puts propaganda in, that is his privilege—if he ignores current social problems, that is also his privilege. As Joseph Krutch says:

the world has always been unjust as well as uncertain . . . It is too bad that men had to be hungry and women had to be dying at the very moment when Newton was inventing the method of fluxions or Gibbon was composing the history of the downfall of Rome. It is too bad that these things had to be done then; but it was far better that they should have been done then than that they should never have been done at all. 1

Librarians have a responsibility and a code in the Library Bill of Rights which was adopted by the Council of the American Library Association at Atlantic City on June 18, 1948. The provisions of the bill are:

The Council of the American Library Association reaffirms its belief in the following basic policies which should govern the services of all librarians:

- 1 Joseph Wood Krutch, *Was Europe a Success?* Farrar and Rinehart, New York: 1934, pp. 71-72.

*Associate Professor, Department of Library Science College of Education, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, currently an instructor in Library Science at the University of Michigan

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1. As a responsibility of library service, books and other reading matter selected should be chosen for values of interest, information and enlightenment of all the people of the community. In no case should any book be excluded because of the race or nationality, or the political or religious views of the writer.

2. There should be the fullest practicable provision of material presenting all points of view concerning the problems and issues of our times, international, national, and local; and books or other reading matter of sound factual authority should not be proscribed or removed from library shelves because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

3. Censorship of books, urged or practiced by volunteer arbiters of morals or political opinion or by organizations that would establish a coercive concept of Americanism, must be challenged by libraries in maintenance of their responsibility to provide public information and enlightenment through the printed word.

4. Libraries should enlist the cooperation of allied groups in the fields of science, of education, and of book publishing in resisting all abridgement of the free access to ideas and full freedom of expression that are the tradition and heritage of Americans.

5. As an institution of education for democratic living, the library should welcome the use of its meeting rooms for socially useful and cultural activities and discussion of current public questions. Such meeting places should be available on equal terms to all groups in the community regardless of the beliefs and affiliations of their members.

Another attempt to maintain a free speech and a free press was made by the American Library Association Council on January 31, 1951. This involved:

LIBRARIES AND THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY

The peace and security of the world being threatened by despotism and aggression, the librarians and friends of librarians of the United States, speaking through the American Library Association, pledge themselves:

1. To strengthen and extend the services of their libraries to meet the needs of national defense and world security.
2. To conserve their resources for the national welfare.

3. To sacrifice, economize, and improvise wherever possible and necessary.

4. To meet the increasing need for information, knowledge and education on which the future world depends for peace and prosperity.

5. To preserve the open market of ideas which libraries represent as a symbol and guarantee of freedom.

6. To lift the morale of a mobilized world through provision of the greatest recorded thoughts of men of all the ages.

7. To cooperate with all agencies seeking to establish a world of decency, security and human dignity.

In the light of the First Amendment to the Constitution, we believe that it is not only desirable, but essential to curb censorship and to promote freedom of speech in order to maintain a free world.

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TEACHER-LIBRARIANS INSTITUTE

School librarians of southern Michigan gathered at St. Mary's Lake, Battle Creek, on September 21 and 22 for the annual institute sponsored by the School and Children's Library Section of the Michigan Library Association. Over 125 registered for an intensive twenty-four hours of discussion, problem solving, and inspiration. Laughter and snores could be heard coming from the cottages far into the night while square dancing was loosening up the joints of those who craved activity.

After a hearty dinner and singing led by the Recreation Director, Harold Newman, the group settled down to listen to Mrs. Lawrence Rhoades of Battle Creek give a demonstration of story-telling for junior high children. This was followed by an excellent description of the two years spent in Germany by Sarita Davis of the University of Michigan Elementary School. Sarita was appointed supervisor of the school library program in the schools provided for children of the American Occupation Army. On a visit to Munich, Sarita went to the International Youth Library and was impressed with the work being done there to foster better understanding through reading. She called upon Louise Le Fevre to augment her remarks with further details of the library on which the latter had prepared a report the previous year for the American Library Association. Louise told of the recently developed plan of the International Relations Committee of the A.L.A. Division of Libraries for Children and Young People which provides for books to be sent as gifts by American schools or groups of young people. Types of books needed are arranged in categories from which selection can be made to avoid duplication at A.L.A. Headquarters which will serve as clearing house. Anyone interested should write to Mildred Batchelder at 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, Illinois.

The Saturday morning program consisted of a demonstration of bulletin board and display techniques by Marie Gudde, librarian of the Paw Paw Training School, who gave some practical advice on methods of keeping the school well informed on its library and books. After a short business session, the group broke up into three sections for discussion on books. Hazel Brown, of Royal Oak presented the discussion of books for elementary children;

Dorothy George of Benton Harbor presented the new materials for junior high school level and Viola Fitch of Pontiac Senior High School reviewed a selection of the last year's output for the senior high school level.

Two important fields were covered in the afternoon program, that of library quarters and equipment and the selection and use of audio-visual materials. The first was presented through panel discussion and the use of slides illustrating points on shelving, workrooms, etc. The panel consisted of Moderator Wilfred Clapp, of the Department of Public Instruction, Lansing; Louise Le Fevre, Department of Librarianship of Western Michigan College of Education, Kalamazoo; Leona Hough, Librarian of the Theodore Roosevelt High School at Wyandotte; Paul Briggs, Principal of Central High School at Bay City; and Louis Kingscott, an architect from Kalamazoo who has designed many schools and school libraries. Such questions as who should have a share in the planning of school library quarters, what type of shelving is most satisfactory, the need for adequate workroom space and others were telescoped into a period too brief for adequate discussion or for audience participation. Following the panel, Clinton Dillon, librarian of the Rochester (Michigan) High School, demonstrated the various types of audio-visual advantages of some over the others. An early dinner was then served so that all could start home before dark. The Institute Committee responsible for a well organized conference and a good program was composed of Lucille Penniman, Walter French Junior High School, Lansing, as Chairman; Ruth Walker, Elementary Librarian of Midland, in charge of the program. The exhibits, publicity and registration were ably cared for by Mrs. Louise Rhodes, East Detroit High School, Elizabeth Rogers, and Doris Sutherland, Elementary Librarians of Lansing. Consultant service was provided by Louise Rees, Michigan State Library, Lansing; Mrs. Edna Mack, Librarian of Central High School, Ann Arbor; and Louise Le Fevre, Department of Librarianship, Western Michigan College. Next year's institute will take place in late September and the chairman will be Grace Winton of Northwestern High School, Detroit.

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REPLY TO THE LITTLE HOOVER REPORT

In response to a letter from Mr. Loren Miller, dated August 22, 1951, the State Board for Libraries submitted the following comments on Task Force Report No. 17, *Michigan's Educational Agencies*, to each member of the Citizens' Advisory Committee for consideration on August 30, 1951.

1. The State Board for Libraries is set up along the lines recommended for the proposed State Board of Education. It is appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, and is a policy making group serving without pay. It appoints a professional librarian as state librarian and secretary, who is the administrative head of the department and coordinates all the library functions under the board. The members represent different parts of the state and a variety of interests and experience.
2. Michigan has an integrated state library organization. It is one of the few states with almost all of the library functions under one board. These include the operation of the state library and the law library for the benefit of state departments and the citizens of the state, traveling libraries for the rural people, the distribution of state documents, and consultant services to local libraries, the administration of grants and the certification of public librarians.
3. Much of the work of the State Library represents a staff function to other state departments in the form of reference and research work and the loan of books and other printed materials. It provides a centralized source of information for every other department of state government, a function quite distinct from the board's interest in the dissemination of books and information as a part of the educational development of the state.
4. Although libraries and schools are both educational agencies in the broad sense, they have essential differences in their scope, their purpose, method of operation and approach to people. Libraries are informal, voluntary agencies, meeting the information and recreational reading needs of people throughout their life time. Schools are formal, compulsory agencies, reaching people mostly between the ages of six to twenty. Because of these differences in objectives, these two types of educational service require different types of leadership, and different standards for operation and the certification of personnel. The state and the community gains by the differences in these programs, so long as the two are coordinated and do not overlap.
5. In considering libraries in the educational picture, it is not valid to assume that all libraries are school libraries set up only to assist with instruction. The State Board for Libraries has the unique function of planning for the development of all types of Michigan libraries, school, general public, college, business, specialized, etc.
6. The State Board for Libraries has specific responsibilities in relation to the 315 libraries in Michigan; setting standards for minimum services and for personnel. This requires quasi-judicial and quasi-legislative action, a time-consuming task of sufficient importance and delicacy to justify a separate board.
7. The greatest problem faced by the public libraries of the state is neglect. It has not occurred to many local and state officials, or to the public, that libraries need public interest and support. There are still 1,000,000 people in Michigan with no local libraries. Because public library development is at this stage, there is great need for the continuation of a separate State Board for Libraries.
8. A State Board of Education occupied with the urgent problems, and strong demands of schools would not improve the quality of the state's assistance to local libraries and the citizens who govern and use them. Neither could such a board be as responsive to their problems and needs as a board appointed by the Governor primarily to serve them.
9. The abolition of the State Board for Libraries would not result in economy. The annual cost of the board is \$1900 for travel to board meetings, stationery, etc. Adding the State Library to a large educational department would increase red tape and administrative costs and make it difficult to obtain decisions on library problems. The transfer of the State Library becomes, therefore, a theoretical move with no resulting economy, and at the same time denies the State Library the valuable counsel which it now receives from its own board.

10. There is coordination and cooperation between the school and library departments now through the School Library Consultant of the Michigan State Library. The recommended pattern would mean a more complicated departmental structure that would gain the same result at greater cost.
11. The abolition of the State Board for Libraries would not result in greater efficiency. The new State Board of Education would have large, time-consuming responsibilities, primarily concerned with school and formal education. We doubt that such a board would have time to set policies for the direction of the State Library and develop-

ment of public library service throughout the state.

As far as we know, the report on Michigan's Educational Agencies was made without any direct contact with the Michigan State Library or a study of its activities. We assume that the recommendations are based on a reading of the library laws, some of which need revision, and on a questionnaire sent to each board member. We, therefore, ask that more study be made of the need for the State Board for Libraries before any final recommendations are made. We shall be glad to supply more information supporting these comments or the answers to any questions you may have.

A LIBRARY SAGA*

By Hoig L. Gay

An era has ended at the Adrian Public Library. Miss Agnes Jewell retired as librarian July 1 after 58 years of service. For the first time since the Adrian Library was established in 1890 the title of city librarian has passed out of the Jewell family.

Miss Emma Sihler, assistant librarian for the last four years, has been named as the new librarian by the library board. She formerly was in charge of circulation at the Jackson library. In her four years in Adrian Miss Sihler has become increasingly popular as a book reviewer. Interestingly enough, Miss Sihler became acquainted with Miss Jewell and her sister, Helen, more than 25 years ago when Miss Sihler's parents operated "Tower Inn" on US-112 at Wampplers lake. Mrs. Barbara Strobel will be the new assistant librarian.

Born in Adrian nearly 77 years ago, and always a resident of Adrian except for a year spent at the Cleveland library, Miss Jewell has devoted her life to the Adrian library. She has seen it grow from a co-operative enterprise with some 3,000 or 4,000 volumes to an institution with 34,000 volumes. Out of town visitors, and visiting library officials never have ceased to wonder at the extensive and complete book selection that she compiled.

Outstanding In State

Because of her keen interest in the library, and a progressive and aggressive attitude in all matters concerning the library, Miss Jewell was recognized for years as one of the leading librarians in Michigan. She served as vice president of the Michigan Library Association in 1921. She addressed state librarians at Lansing in 1927 and conducted meetings of librarians in 1934. Any office in the state organization could have been hers for the asking. But she preferred to let others take the honors while she remained in the background with a helping and guiding hand.

One of Miss Jewell's most important goals was to bring the library to the younger generation—and bring the younger generation to the library. "The older generation is pretty much 'set' in its

*Reprinted by permission of *The Adrian Telegram*

ways," she often said, "the hope for the future is in the young folks." And so she thought up ways and means to get children into the library. A checker board is in the children's room. A doll house is there, too. A davenport in one of the main reading rooms creates a homey atmosphere. She encouraged children's displays, story hours and summer reading contests. "The Nativity Scene" has been a holiday feature for many years, the miniature figures of Mary and the Christ Child always catching the eyes of boys and girls. Once the library acquired a young visitor, Miss Jewell made certain that the library shelves contained the right material to keep him interested.

When the Jewells lived in their original home on South Winter Street a young lad named Allan Seager lived right next door. Young Mr. Seager became an admirer of the Jewells and also a frequent visitor at the library. He asked hundreds of questions about books and problems that concern high school boys. He read a good many library books, some of which were recommended and even urged upon him by Miss Jewell. Today Mr. Seager is an English professor at the University of Michigan and a novelist and short story writer in his own right. "I don't know if I really should take any credit or not," Miss Jewell said. "Allan says he's giving me some of the credit, anyhow."

There is a beginning of the Jewell story at the library, of course. But there may never be an ending. The printed word selected for the library shelves, the long years of good will, the encouragement given boys and girls, and the kindly help of an understanding woman are things that live forever.

Began Work At 19

Miss Jewell became identified with the Adrian library in 1893 when a girl of 19. She had just graduated from Adrian high school. Her mother, Mrs. Margaret Jewell, named the daughter assistant librarian. The mother had been librarian since 1889 or 1890. In those years the Ladies Library Association operated the library in Adrian.

A school library was in operation on the third floor of the old Central school building, the pres-

ent Junior Association in the city raised. The Captain had a re-

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ent Junior high school. The Ladies Library Association was formed to expand library facilities in the city. Books were collected and funds were raised. The women's group turned the project over to Captain Humphrey, a Civil War veteran who had a reputation for getting things done.

Under the leadership of Captain Humphrey plans were made to combine the school library with the Ladies Library Association. Quarters were found in the old Conger block, located on the site of the present post office. Captain Humphrey picked Mrs. Margaret Jewell as the first full time city librarian.

"I still recall that old Conger building," Miss Jewell said Monday as she leaned back in an easy chair before the fireplace of the Jewell home on South Winter Street. "I practically grew up on that big mahogany table in the reading room. I was about eight years old at the time and I just sort of lived at the library with mother."

Library Errand Girl

Miss Jewell recalls that she ran library errands and helped with odd jobs at the library almost from the beginning. Although she didn't go on the library payroll until she was 19, and although she officially is credited with 58 years of library service, she actually has been associated with the library for a total of 69 years. For Miss Jewell they have been very good years.

Within a year or two a movement was started to enlarge the library quarters. The Ladies Library Association joined with the Y. M. C. A. and Adrian firemen, which had smaller libraries, to establish one central library. The books of all groups were pooled to form one central library of some 3,000 or 4,000 volumes. The first floor of the present city hall was turned over to the group for library purposes. The books in the Conger block were moved to the city hall along with the others. The mahogany reading table went along, too.

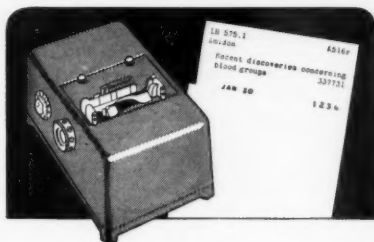
The first floor quarters were satisfactory for a time but in 1907 there was agitation for a new building. Andrew Carnegie contributed funds and so did city officials. The old Knight mill property at Church and Dennis Streets was purchased for a site. Construction started. The building was opened in 1909. Miss Jewell and her mother recruited high school boys to carry the books across the street from the city hall to the new building. It was another way to get young folks into the library. The Jewells, however, never were consulted about the style of the building. Curved walls, they emphasized, were not ideal for library space arrangements. But they always made the best of the facilities provided.

There was a little slip-up at the time of the dedication of the elaborate new building. Mrs. Margaret Jewell, the librarian, had supervised all moving operations. She was scheduled to continue as librarian in the new building. But the powers that be forgot to invite her to the dedication ceremonies.

"While the dedication program was going on inside," Miss Jewell recalls, "mother was standing outside in the rain, trying to hear a bit of what was going on. She had many a good laugh over that experience, and so have I."

Plans Lecture Series

Miss Jewell continued as assistant librarian until her mother's death in 1933 but for a number of years before that date she was the librarian in



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fact if not in title. Under her direction the library offered many services. A lecture series was arranged at her instigation in 1915 and 1916 with local residents speaking on assigned subjects. The attendance was substantial. In 1915 the Adrian Library Commission was formed to direct the destinies of the library and with this organization Miss Jewell always worked with complete understanding. Above all, she kept up with the times and, as rapidly as possible, introduced new library techniques and policies. It was upon her suggestion that the library was redecorated in brighter and more cheerful colors. Adrian also was one of the first libraries in the state to use the library card system and automatic book charging machine.

Miss Jewell participated in varied activities outside the library field. One of these was the Adrian Business & Professional Women's Club of which she was a charter member. She was an honorary member of the Adrian Woman's Club. As a member of the business women's club, Miss Jewell was active in the project through which the club purchased the property at the foot of Broad Street and donated it to the city for development as The Island, a natural and beautiful park setting.

"Books And People" Author

Miss Jewell began writing her "Books and People" column in *The Telegram* in 1919 and it has been a weekly feature since. Dealing with new books and authors, listing the best sellers of the day and frequently emphasizing events of local interest, the column was designed to stimulate interest in the library. Miss Jewell made every effort to keep the column bright and readable and avoided the literary profundity that has been the pitfall of many writers. In keeping with a sense of humor that has marked her personality, Miss Jewell closed the column with a joke. "That's why they read the column," Miss Jewell explained, "to get the joke at the end."

Crowned and commended on numerous occasions for her work at the library, Miss Jewell received the Adrian Exchange Club's "Book of Golden Deeds" citation in 1944. "Adrian citizens have ever found Miss Jewell a ready and efficient counselor on books and reference work," the citation reads. "Literary and civic organizations have consulted freely with her for help in their activities. She has been a fine citizen, doing splendidly one of the so-called ordinary tasks of life."

"As you look back over 58 years of work," Miss Jewell was asked, "what seems the most important?"

"It's difficult to say," she replied, "so much has happened in 58 years. But our book drive during the 1932-1933 depression days always has been very close to my heart. All libraries were in difficulty in those days. Appropriations were slashed. There was no money to buy books. So we organized a book drive. We urged Adrian residents to donate books to the library to keep us going and give us a fresh stock. You know, there was lots of time to read in those days."

1,000 Volumes Collected

"I've always been proud of the manner in which Adrian folks responded. Why, they turned over about 1,000 volumes to us. When we received duplicates we exchanged books with other libraries. We actually gave away a few books outright to neighboring libraries that needed them. Adrian was one of the few libraries in the state in those days that could boast of a new stock of books. I've always felt good about that project and I've always been proud of Adrian because of it."

There was no formal retirement dinner for Miss Jewell, no speeches and no flowers. She wanted it that way. But Miss Sihler and the library staff called on her the other night. They brought her a big basket heaped up with choice delicacies. They also brought her a bound volume of letters entitled "A Tribute to Miss Agnes Jewell." The letters were written by old friends, city officials, teachers and leading citizens of the city. They also were written by some of the boys and girls she befriended and helped along the way. Some were written by members of the library board. Robert Moreland, chairman of the library board, spread the word around that Miss Jewell was retiring and suggested that letters of tribute would be in order. Some 30 or 40 letters are included in the volume. They commend Miss Jewell for her work as librarian; they recall pleasant associations of the past; they give credit where credit is due, "I think a lot of those letters," Miss Jewell said, "I don't know of anything that has pleased me more."

"Emma (Miss Sihler) has been worrying about taking over as head librarian," Miss Jewell then said in a lighter vein, "but I know that the library will be in good hands. Emma tells me that she has a pair of mighty big shoes to fill over there. But I'm taking care of that, too. I'm giving her a pair of my bedroom slippers. She'll be able to get into them all right."

Miss Jewell died Monday, October 1, 1951.

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NEW EDITION

Aldrich, Ella V., *Using Books and Libraries*, 3rd edition, New York, Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1951. (\$1.25)

This new edition of one of the most widely used library manuals is certainly adequate of its kind but brings up the question of whether or not its kind is enough. The growing complexity of the bibliographical organization of American libraries, and particularly college and university ones, must force us to inquire whether the once-over-lightly of the card catalog and the short guided tour of the obvious landmarks in the reference room as offered in this work will give the undergraduate a minimum knowledge of basic bibliography. I say this in all humility for I am, myself, the entrepreneur of a similar work.

As libraries proliferate, such works as this become more and more elliptical and, I think, more and more obscure for the user who has no technical knowledge of library organization. The tendency to "talk down" increases. Too

many librarians and too many administrators seem to think of the library in its nineteenth century terms and do not take into account the last seventy-five years of growth in size and technical organization. Enumerative bibliography and a "love of books" was enough when collections were numbered in the hundreds and the thousands; some considerable knowledge of methodology is needed when collections are in the tens and hundreds of thousands.

This manual contains a very wide range of information about the library and its organization. As a point of departure for formal instruction in basic bibliography it is certainly adequate. But as librarians we must accept the responsibility for providing not just guide books but a real working knowledge of the bibliographical organization we have produced.

James E. Green

Michigan State Normal College Library
Ypsilanti

PERSONALS

A new name appears in the roster of school librarians in Michigan with the appointment of Jean Lowrie to the position of the Campus School at Western Michigan College of Education in Kalamazoo. Miss Lowrie comes to Michigan from Linden Elementary School at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. She is a graduate of Keuka College and of the School of Librarianship of Western Reserve University. In addition to her work as librarian of the Campus School, she will serve as supervisor of the field work of the students in the Department of Librarianship assigned to the Campus School for that part of their training. Miss Lowrie replaces Helen Green who has gone to Columbia University to begin work on her master's degree.

Miss Dorothy Rozek, who has been active in the affairs of MLA, is leaving the Ingham County Library to become supervisor of Branch Libraries in Snohomish County Library, Everett, Washington.

Miss Phoebe Lumaree of Western Michigan College is Chairman of the Committee of the Michigan Regional Group of Catalogers which is working on the problem of revising or amending that group's constitution. Miss Gertrude Van Zee of Kalamazoo College is a member of the committee.

Miss Johanna Kananen of McGregor Public Library Highland Park, is chairman of the nominating committee of the Group.

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